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IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 AUG 2006

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Darin G. Schaeffer

Appln. No.: Pending

Filed: Herewith

For: FLEXIBLE TIP

Attorney Docket No: 8627-1246
(PA-5595-PCT/US)

Examiner:

Art Unit:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), Applicant hereby cites the following reference(s):

U.S. Patent No.	Date of Issue	Inventor
5,599,319	02/04/97	Stevens
6,350,253 B1	02/26/2002	Deniega et al.

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Foreign Patent	Date Published	Patentee/Applicant/Assignee
WO 89/02763	04/06/89	PCT
WO 97/25090	07/17/97	PCT
WO 2004/060434 A2	07/22/04	PCT

Other Art – Non-Patent Literature Documents

Copy of International Search Report from PCT Application No. PCT/US2005/036245, dated 3/15/2006, 4 pages.

Applicant is enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). As each of the listed references is in English, no further commentary is believed to be necessary,

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37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

By submitting this Statement, Applicant is attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 C.F.R. §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a).

Applicant has calculated no fee to be due in connection with the filing of this Statement. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Statement to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

August 31, 2006
Date

Richard E. Stanley, Jr.
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FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. <div style="text-align: right;">pending</div>	CASE NO. 8627-1246 (PA-5595-PCT/US)
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <small>(use several sheets if necessary)</small>	FILING DATE Filed herewith 08/30/06	GROUP ART UNIT
APPLICANT(S): Darin G. Schaeffer		

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	5,599,319	02/04/97	Stevens	604/264	8/95
	A2	6,350,253 B1	02/26/02	Deniega et al.	604/164.02	7/99

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
	A3	WO 89/02763	04/06/89	PCT		n/a
	A4	WO 97/25090	07/17/97	PCT		n/a
	A5	WO 2004/060434 A2	07/22/04	PCT		n/a

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS <small>(Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.)</small>	
	A6	Copy of International Search Report from PCT Application No. PCT/US2005/036245 dated March 15, 2006, 4 pages.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.